

Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 291222Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 2149

S E C R E T MANAMA 0619

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : EAID, MARR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE : (A) MANAMA 0574

(B) MANAMA 0578

1. MAY 29 I HAD FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER SINCE HIS RETURN FROM IRAQ AND IRAN OFFICIAL VISITS. I WENT OVER BRIEFLY POINTS I HAD MADE EARLIER WITH SHIRAWI (MANAMA 574) RE RELATIONSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING AND MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TALKED WITH SHIRAWI ABOUT THIS AND INDICATED HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS PROBLEM. HE MADE NO COMMITMENT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON TIMING OF CONCLUSION NEGOTIATIONS.

2. PREVIOUS DAY I HAD GONE OVER SAME GROUND WITH LEGAL MINISTER BAHARNA WHO INDICATED HE FULLY AGREES THAT ARRANGEMENTS WE HAVE NEGOTIATED ARE SUPPORTIVE OF GOB'S POLICY OF RETAINING NAVY AND HENCE HE FEELS NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONCLUDED SOONEST. HE IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT PRIME MINISTER MAY HAVE MADE SOME SORT OF COMMITMENT TO CERTAIN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS THAT HE WOULD KEEP NAVY NEGOTIATIONS ON ICE IF THEY WOULD KEEP NAVY QUESTION OFF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA. IF THIS IS TRUE, GOB IS IN AWKWARD SITUATION SINCE PRIME MINISTER IS NOW IN LONDON AND, ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS, PLANS TO REMAIN THERE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

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3. FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO MENTIONED THAT DURING IRANIAN VISIT
SHAH HAD CLARIFIED TO BAHRAINIS HIS POLICY RE U.S. NAVY
PRESENCE IN GULF AND ON THIS BASIS GOB SATISFIED IRAN SUPPORTS
MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE SO LONG AS SOVIETS ARE ALSO IN
AREA.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO SECDEF, CNO,
CINCUSNAVEUR AND COMIDEASTFOR.
TWINAM

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NNN

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